

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2693

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0427

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: CABINDA - SEPARATISM

1. SUMMARY: PEOPLE OF CABINDA SEEM INCLINED TO VOTE FOR
FEDERATION WITH PORTUGAL AS A SEPARATE PROVINCE FROM ANGOLA.
THEY APPARENTLY DO NOT AT PRESENT DESIRE INDEPENDENCE NOR
CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH INDEPENDENT ANGOLA. ISSUE, IF
ALLOWED TO PROCEED, WOULD HAVE FUTURE POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR USG
IN VIEW GULF OIL CO. INVESTMENT IN ENCLAVE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING VISIT CABINDA MAY 23, CONGEN OFFICER HAD OPPORTUNITY
TALK WITH ALEXANDER TATY, CURRENTLY HEAD OF PARTIDO DEMOCRATICO
DOS POVOS DE CABINDA ONE OF THE TWO CABINDAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS
HAVING SURFACED SO FAR. (IN PAST TATY WAS DEFENSE MINISTER IN
GRAE, THEN DEFECTED TO PORTUGUESE AND COLLABORATED WITH DGS.) HE
STATED CABINDANS CONSIDER THEMSELVES LEGALLY AND ETHNICALLY SEPAR-
ATE FROM ANGOLA AND HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE LUMPED TOGETHER WITH
ANGOLA OR ANY INDEPENDENT STATE. CABINDA (POP. 80,000) FEARS ITS
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THREE BIG NEIGHBORS AND REALIZES ONLY MEANS TO MAINTAIN SEPARATE

IDENTITY (AND OIL WEALTH) IN BY CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH PORTUGAL AND PROTECTION OF PORTUGUESE TROOPS. TATY SURE VAST MAJORITY CABINDANS WOULD VOTE FOR THIS OPTION IF OFFERED IN ELECTION. (THE UNIAO DEMOCRATICO DOS POVOS DE CABINDA, RECENTLY FORMED CABINDAN PARTY, ALSO ESPOUSES THIS LINE.)

3. HIS PRIMARY CONCERN IS WHETHER ANGOLANS WOULD PEACEFULLY ACCEPT ARRANGEMENT. THERE SEEMED TO BE NO DOUBT IN HIS MIND THAT PORTUGAL WOULD JUMP AT CHANCE CONTINUE CONTROL ENCLAVE. POINT WAS MADE THAT CABINDA HAS NEVER DESIRED ASSOCIATION WITH ANGOLA AND THAT TWO AREAS HAVE SEPARATE IDENTITIES UNDER PORTUGUESE CONSTITUTION - NOTWITHSTANDING THAT CABINDA HAS ALWAYS BEEN ADMINISTERED FROM LUANDA, NOT LISBON.

4. PORTUGUESE IN CABINDA, WITH LONG EXPERIENCE IN BOTH ANGOLA AND CABINDA, MADE SAME POINTS TO CONGEN OFFICER. THEY STATED TATY MAIN POLITICAL FIGURE IN DISTRICT BUT THAT THERE ARE OTHER, SMALL POLITICAL GROUPS IN BRAZZAVILLE AND KINSHASA. THEY FEEL MPLA HAS VERY LITTLE POLITICAL SUPPORT INSIDE DISTRICT, AND NO PROSPECT FOR GAINING ANY BEFORE ELECTIONS. IT HAS NO TROOPS INSIDE CABINDA AT PRESENT ALTHOUGH SOME OFFENSIVE ACTIONS CONTINUE - LAST ON MAY 30 WITH FOUR PORTUGUESE KIAS.

5. HISTORICAL BASIS FOR CABINDAN SEPARATISM WELL DOCUMENTED. (TREATY OF SIMULAMBUCO (1885) ESTABLISHING PORTUGUESE SOVEREIGNTY OVER CABINDA IS BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND "PRINCES OF CABINDA" AND MAKES NO MENTION OF ANGOLA.) TATY UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE ONZ OF THE PRINCIPAL ACTORS IN THIS PIECE AND IN THE PAST HAS BEEN AT LEAST PARTIALLY A PUPPET OF PORTUGUES. NEVERTHELESS, HIS PROGRAM REPRESENTS WHAT IS THOUGHT TO BE PREVALENT POLITICAL OPINION OF CABINDAN PEOPLE. LUANDA CONTACTS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT CABINDA CONFIRM THIS WITHOUT EXCEPTION. PORTUGUESE IN CABINDA SEEMED TERRIBLY EAGER SECOND TATY'S ARGUMENT.

6. AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE (LUANDA 368) GOP AT THIS JUNCTURE FIRMLY INTENDS TO ENSURE CABINDA REMAINS INTEGRAL PART OF ANGOLA (REGARDLESS OF ANGOLA'S FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH METROPOLITAN PORTUGAL). WE UNDERSTAND DELEGATION FROM CABINDA IS NOW IN LISBON PURSUING MATTER WITH GOP.

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7. IN VIEW OF PREDOMINANT GULF OIL CO. PRESENCE IN ENCLAVE, CABINDAN SEPARATISM COULD BE SEEN IN AFRICA AND ANGOLA AS US PLOY KEEP CONTROL OF OIL.
BRIGGS

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